

Remarks

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on March 12, 2003. Claims 21-49 are pending, claims 21-49 have been rejected.

Applicants note that the examiner has renumbered claims 22-50 to 21-49 and use this revised claim numbering scheme.

**Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 27-32 and 37-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to point out and particularly claim the subject matter. Specifically, certain claims were rejected as having insufficient antecedent basis for the phrase "docking member". Claims 21 and 33 were amended to provide sufficient antecedent basis, and claim 32 was amended to properly depend. Applicants submit that all claims are now in conformity with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

**Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 21-30, 34-38, and 42-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bates et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,179,859). Applicants respectfully disagree. Bates et al. has a priority date of July 16, 1999, whereas the present application has a priority date of March 6, 1997. Consequently, Bates et al. is not prior art.

Applicants therefore submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. to obviate this rejection. The claims are now in condition for allowance.

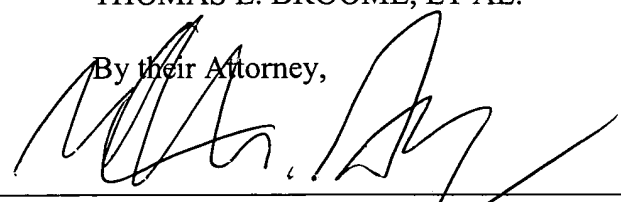
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Attorney,

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